

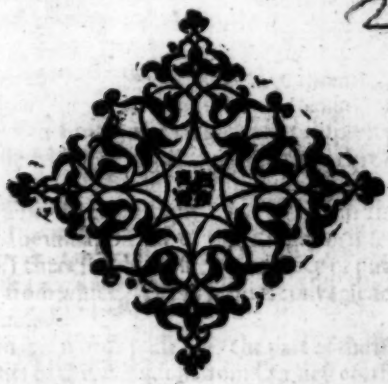
C 2299. [CUC, MH]

24

HIS
MAIESTIES
DECLARATION.
To all His loving
SVBIECTS.

Published with the advice of
His Privie Councell.

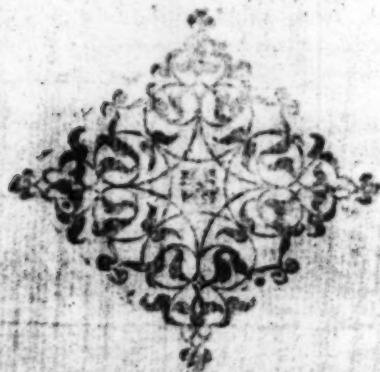
23.



[London Printed, 1641.]

His
MAJESTIES
DECLARATION
To all His loving
SUBJECTS.

Published with the advice of
His Privie Councell.



London Printed, 1641.

His Majesties Declaration, To all His Loving Subjects.

Published by the order of His Privie Council.

Although We do not believe that Our House of Commons intended, by their Remonstrance of the State of the Kingdom, to put Us to any Apology, either for Our past or present Actions; Nevertheless, since they have thought it so very necessary (upon their observation of the present distemper) to publish the same for the satisfaction of all Our loving Subjects, We have thought it very suitable to the duty of our place (with which God hath entrusted Us) to do Our part to good work, in which We shall not think it below Our kingly dignity to descend to any particular, which may compose and pacifie the affections of Our meane Subjects, since We are so conscious of Our Self of such upright Intentions and endeavors, and only of such (for which We give God thanks,) for the Peace and Happiness of Our Kingdom, in which the prosperity of Our Subjects must be included, that we wish from Our heart, that even Our most secret thoughts were published to their view and examination, although We must confesse We cannot but be very sorry in this conjuncture of time (when the unhappiness of the Kingdom is to generally understood) that there should be such a necessity of publishing so many particulars, from which We pray, no inconveniences may ensue that were not intended.

We shall in few words passe over the part of the narrative, wherein the misfortunes of this Kingdom from Our first entering to the Crown, to the beginning of this Parliament, are remembered in so sensible expressions; and that other which acknowledgeth the many good Laws passed by Our Grace and Favour this Parliament, for the security of Our people; Of which We shall onely say this much, That as We have not refused to passe any Bill presented to Us by our Parliament, for redresse of those grievances mentioned in the Remonstrance, so We have

not had a greater motive for the passing these Laws then Our own reason, and the sense of the necessity of them, but that the Sense of our being bound to them, and our Subjects, for the same, from those predilections which were grievous to them if those Laws had not been propounded, which therefore We shall as inviolably maintain, as We look on any Government as a subject of meditation, that all Our loving Subjects will look on those Remedies, with that full gratitude & affection, that even the memory of what they have formerly undergone by the Absoluteness and necessities of those times, will not be unpleasant to them: And possibly in a pious sense of Gods blessing upon this Nation (how little share forever We shall have of the acknowledgement) they will confesse they have enjoyed a great measure of happiness (even these last sixteen years) both in peace and plenty, not only comparatively in respect of their Neighbours, but even of those times which were justly accounted Fortunate.

The Fears and Jealousies which may make some impression in the minds of Our People, We will suppose may be of two sorts, either for Religion, or Liberty, and their civil Interests. The Fears for Religion may haply be, not only as Ours here established may be invaded by the Romish party, but as it is accompanied with some Ceremonies, at which some tender consciences really are, or pretend to be scandalized, for as any other which have been used without any legal warrant or injunction, and already are, or speedily may be abolished, We shall not speak.

Concerning religion, as there may be any suspicion of favour or inclination to the Papists. We are willing to declare to all the world, That as We have been from our childhood brought up in and professed the religion now established in this Kingdom, so it is well known, We have not contented simply with the principles of Our Education given a good proportion of Our time & pains to the examination of the grounds of this religion, as it is different from that of Rome, and are from Our soul so fully satisfied and assured, that it is most pure, and agreeable to the Sacred Word of God, of any religion now practised in the Christian world: That as VVe believe VVe can maintain the same by unanswerable reasons, so VVe hope VVe should readily seal to it by the effusion of Our Blood, if it pleased God to call Us to that sacrifice: And therefore nothing can be so acceptable unto Us, as any proposition which may contribute to the advancement of it here, or the propagation of it abroad, being the only means to draw down a blessing from God upon Our selves & this Nation. And VVe have been

been extremely unfortunate, if this profusion of Ours be wanting to Our people. Our constant practice in Our own Person having alwaies been (without hesitation) as much to the evidence of Our care and duty herein, as VVe could possibly tell how to expresse.

For differences amongst our selves, for matters indifferent in their own nature concerning religion, VVe shall in tendernesse to any number of Our loving Subjects, very willingly comply with the advice of Our Parliament; that some Law may be made for the exemption of tender consciences from punishment, or prosecution for such Ceremonies, in such cases which by the judgement of most men, are held to be matters indifferent, and of some to be absolutely unlawfull. Provided that this case be attempted, and pursued with that modesty, temper and submission, that in the mean time the peace and quiet of the Kingdom be not disturbed, the decency and comeliness of Gods Service discountenanced, nor the pious, sober, and devout actions of those reverend Persons, who were the first labourers in that blessed reformation, or of that time, be scandall'd and defamed. For VVe cannot without grief of heart, and without some tax upon Our Self, and Our Ministers for the not execution of Our Laws, look upon the bold licence of some men, in printing of Pamphlets, in Preaching and printing of Sermons, so full of bitterness and malice against the present Government, against the Laws established, so full of sedition against Our Self, and the peace of the Kingdom, that VVe are many times amazed to consider by what Eyes these things are seen, and by what Ears they are heard; And therefore VVe have good cause to command, as We have done, and hereby do, all our Judges and Ministers of justice, Our Attorney and Solicitor Generall, and the rest of Our learned Councell, to proceed with all speed against such, and their Abettors, who either by writing or words have so boldly and maliciously violated the Laws, disturbed the peace of the Commonwealth; and as much as in them lies, shaken the very foundation upon which that peace and happiness is founded and constituted. And We doubt not but all Our loving Subjects, will be very sensible that this base, virulent demeanour, is a fit Prologue to nothing but confusion; and if not very reasonably punished and prevented, will not onely be a blemish to the wholesome accommodation We intend, but an unspeakable scandall and imputation, even upon the protestation and religion of this Our Kingdome of England.

Concerning the Civil Liberties and Interest of Our Subjects, We shall need to say the lesse, having erected so many lasting Monuments

ments of Our Princesly and fatherly care of Our People, in those many excellent Lawes passed by Us this Parliament, which in truth (with very much content to Our Selfe) We conceive to be so large and ample, that very many sober men have very little to wish for.

We understood well the Right and pretence of Right We departed from in the consenting to the Bills of the Triennial Parliament, for the continuance of this present Parliament, and in the preamble to the Bill of Tunnage and Poundage, the matter of which having begot so many disturbances in late Parliaments, We were willing to remove, that no interest of Ours might hereafter break that correspondency, abundantly contenting Our selfe with an Assurance (which We still have) that we should be repaid & supplied by a just proportion of Confidence, bounty, & obedience, of our people. In the Bill for the taking away the High Commission and Star-chamber Courts, We believed We had given that real satisfaction, that all jealousies and apprehensions of Arbitrary power under the Civill or Ecclesiasticall state, would easily have been abandoned, especially when they saw all possible doubts secured by the violation of a Triennial Parliament.

There are others of no means consideration, We had rather should be valued in the hearts and affections of Our people, then in any mention of Our own, not doubting, but as We have taken all these occasions to render their condition most comfortable and happy, so they will always in a gratefull, and cheerful relation, be ready with equal tenderneesse and alacrity, to advance Our Rights, and preserve our Honour, upon which their own security and subsistence so much depends. And We will be so careful, that no particular shall be presented unto Us for the completing and establishing that security, to which We will not with the same readinesse contribute Our best assistance.

If these resolutions be the effects of Our present Councells, (and We take God to witness that they are such, and that all Our loving Subjects may confidently expect the benefit of them from Us) Certainly no ill designe upon the publike can accompany such resolutions, neither will there be great cause of suspicion, of any Person preferred by Us to degrees of honour, and places of trust and employment since this Parliament. And We must confesse, that amongst Our misfortunes, We reckon it not the least, That having not retained in Our Service, nor protected any one Person, against whom Our Parliament hath excepted, during the whole sitting of it, and having in all that time scarce vouchsafed to any man an instance of Our Grace and Fa-

now, but to such who were under some eminent Character of Edima-
tion among Our people, there should so soon be any misfunder-
standing or malice of their fidelity and uprightness, especially in a
time when We as all intentions to declare. That we conceive Our
self only capable of being moved by honest Men, and in honest wayer.
How ever it may be We have been mistaken in such Our election, the
particular shall be no sooner discovered, so, Neighbour by Our own
obligation, or otherwise to the nation, then We will leave them
to Publike Justice under the modest of Our displeasure.

It is wishing this, any malignant Party shall take heart, and
be willing to sacrifice the Peace and Happiness of their Country
to their own sinister ends and intentions, under what pretence of Reli-
gion and Conscience it may be they shall endeavour to lessen our Re-
putation and interest, and to weaken Our Lawfull Power and Autho-
rity, with Our good Subjects, if they shall go about, by discountenanc-
ing the present Laws, to weaken the Bands of Government, that all
disorder & confusion may break in upon Us, We doubt not, but God
in his good time will discover them unto Us; and the wisdom and
courage of Our High Court of Parliament joyn with Us in their sup-
pression and punishment.

Having now said all that We can, to rectify the clearest and up-
rightness of Our intentions to Our people, & done all we can to man-
ifest those intentions, We cannot but confidently believe al Our good
Subjects will acknowledge Our part to be fully performed, both in
declaration and performance, to do what ever with Justice may
be required of Us, and that their quiet and prosperity depends now
wholly upon themselves, and in their own power, by yielding all
obedience and duty to Us, which is the inheritance of
every Subject, and the only security he can have for his Life, Liberty,
and Estate, and the which being neglected or neglected (under what
pretence so ever) is a great measure of infelicity, without an irrepara-
ble loss of their rights and estate fall upon them. And We doubt not
it will be the most acceptable Declaration to His Majesty, that His
Subjects shall see that We are resolved not only to sub-
serve the Law, but also His Majesty's Majesty against what oppo-
sition soever shall be made with the sword of Our being.

And Our hope is, that not only the Loyalty and good Affections
of all Our loving Subjects, will concur with Us in the constant preserv-
ing a good understanding betweene Us and Our people, but at this
time their own, and Our interest and compassion of the lamentable
con-

